

8. Coordination or Consolidation with Special or Rural Public Transportation Services—A regional transportation agency is able to more efficiently provide human service agency transportation, or to coordinate with the service provided by these agencies.

9. Develop Specialized Professional Staff—By centralizing administrative functions, a regional or multi-county agency is more likely to be able to meet the expense of and develop more specialized professional staff.

10. Improved Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Department of Transportation—Given a lower number of local transit systems, the state DOT experiences a reduced administrative burden. A smaller number of transit systems can also make organizing and implementing special projects easier and more effective for state DOT staff.

## C. The Current Situation

### Transit Systems in North Carolina

There are four principal types of public transportation systems that currently operate in North Carolina:

- Human service transportation – Human service transportation systems operate in six North Carolina Counties. These transportation systems provide transportation to eligible human service agency and elderly clients.
- Community transportation -- There are 78 community transportation systems in North Carolina that provide transportation to the general public, as well as to eligible human service agency and elderly clients. All are single-county systems except for six multi-county systems.
- Urban transit -- There are seventeen metropolitan transit systems operating in North Carolina. Four metropolitan transit systems have consolidated or are consolidating their urban and rural public transportation services.
- Regional transit -- There are two regional public transportation authorities in North Carolina, the Triangle Transit Authority (TTA) and the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART). Although the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) is not a regional transit system by name, the system provides services that are regional in scope—commuter express services from adjoining counties. All three of these systems have a dedicated funding source, such as a sales tax or rental car tax, that are permitted by state transit legislation.

### Transportation Grant Programs

Major rural public transportation grant programs include the federal TEA-21 Section 5310 and Section 5311 programs which are incorporated into the NC Community Transportation Program (CTP), the Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP), and the Rural Capital Program.

Metropolitan transit grant programs include the federal TEA-21 Section 5303, Section 5307, and Section 5309 programs, and North Carolina State Maintenance Assistance Program (SMAP), State Capital Match Program, and Rideshare Program.

Federal transportation legislation permits transferring certain funds between transportation programs. State and local officials can choose to transfer funds from programs administered by the